

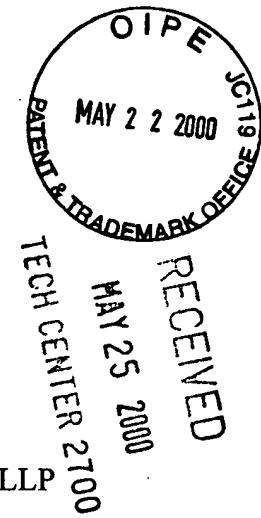
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re The Application of: )  
Maria E. Barone et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/033,997 )  
Filed: March 3, 1998 )  
For: Method and Apparatus for Pre- )  
dicting Plasma-Process Surface )  
Profiles )

Examiner: R. Patel

Art Unit: 2786



Cesari and McKenna, LLP  
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Boston, MA 02110  
May 22, 2000

“Express Mail” Mailing-Label Number: EL056800205US

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 9.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (amended) A method of determining a respective process value of at least one input variable governing a plasma process sequence for creating a desired surface profile on a process substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

a. selecting a respective test value of the at least one input variable;  
b. [subjecting] performing, on a test substrate [to], a test process defined by the respective test value, thereby creating a test surface profile;

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